DC #26

DIRECT CURRENTS

BOOKS SHIPPING IN MARCH

IN THIS ISSUE:

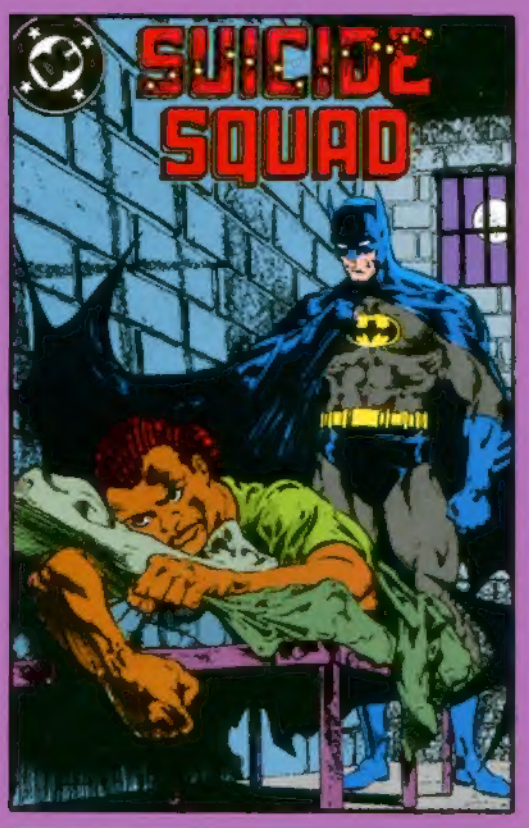
THE BUTCHER
five-issue mini-series

LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT:
"Gothic" mini-series within a series

PLUS...

an interview with
Klaus Janson

more Annuals



Cover Of The Month
SUICIDE SQUAD #40

WHO IS . . . THE BUTCHER?

A new menace from the Canadian Rockies has reared its head, threatening everything and everybody that crosses its path. It's a menace so powerful, so evil, that only the toughest, most ruthless of superheroes can ever hope to defeat it.

That hero is **THE BUTCHER.**

THE BUTCHER is the newest hero in the DC Comics Universe . . . *and* the most mysterious. Who is he? Where did he come from? There are answers to those questions . . . but don't expect them to come easily. Because *nothing* is ever easy for THE BUTCHER.

THE BUTCHER is a five-issue mini-series in the New Format, created by writer Mike Baron and artist Shea Anton Pensa with a cover by Paris Cullins and Pensa. THE BUTCHER is labeled "Suggested for Mature Readers."

The action is non-stop, the mystery maddening . . . but what else can you expect from a hero called . . . THE BUTCHER?

THE BATMAN AND *GREEN ARROW* IN ANNUALS

The 1990 annual season continues this month with a pair of annuals featuring Batman and Green Arrow.

First up is the **BATMAN ANNUAL #14**, featuring the continuation of the Darknight Detective's first year in costume. In the months after Batman's first appearance in Gotham, Captain James Gordon introduces him to Harvey Dent, the city's newest and boldest D.A. But when the three of them join forces to fight Gotham's criminal underworld, Batman becomes concerned with Dent's attitude toward crime . . . a concern that is fully realized when the D.A. becomes the criminal madman Two-Face. "The Eye of the Beholder" is the definitive origin of Two-Face, written by Andrew Helfer and pencilled by Chris Sprouse.

And in **GREEN ARROW ANNUAL #3**, the Emerald Archer finds himself in the Amazon jungle and in major trouble that only The Question can help get him out of. Only problem is, The Question is retired from the heroing game and is stuck in Seattle babysitting. GREEN ARROW ANNUAL #3 serves as the link between THE QUESTION #36, the final issue of the faceless hero's monthly series, and his return in the forthcoming THE QUESTION QUARTERLY #1. GREEN ARROW ANNUAL #3 is written by Dennis O'Neil, with art by Tom Artis and Bill Wray and cover by Dan Jurgens.

THE DC COMICS GANG assembled at a New York convention in January. Here are some not-so-candid photos, thanks to ace photographer and production artist Bové.

DC's own Group Editor Archie Goodwin. (What's that button you're wearing, Archie?)

(L-R) Rose Rummel-Eury (wife of Associate Editor Michael Eury), Kez Wilson, Tammy Brown (Marketing "elf"), and Dan Raspler (Assistant Editor)

Editor Brian Augustyn (wondering when he agreed to work the weekend)

Tammy Brown (again?) and Piranha Press's Mark Nevelow

Paul Kupperberg, Writer
Peggy May, Editor

DIRECT CURRENTS No. 26 February 1990. Published by DC Comics Inc., 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103. Copyright © 1990 by DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters, and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. Except as otherwise noted, all titles, characters and related indicia are Trademarks of DC Comics Inc. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS, DRAGONLANCE, and FORGOTTEN REALMS are trademarks owned by and licensed from TSR Inc. © 1990 TSR, Inc. All Rights Reserved. DOC SAVAGE and THE SHADOW Copyright © 1990 by The Condé Nast Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved. All characters and the distinctive likenesses of THE SHADOW and DOC SAVAGE are Trademarks of The Condé Nast Publications, Inc. THE BUTCHER Copyright © 1990 Mike Baron and Shea Anton Pensa. All Rights Reserved. THE PHANTOM Copyright © 1990 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Published under license by DC Comics Inc. STAR TREK and STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION elements Copyright © 1990 Paramount Pictures Corporation. All Rights Reserved. TEMPUS FUGITIVE Copyright © 1990 Ken Steacy. All Rights Reserved.

Printed in Canada

LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT #6: "GOTHIC" BEGINS

With the conclusion last issue of "Shaman," **LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT** begins its second mini-series-within-a-series with the five-part "Gothic."

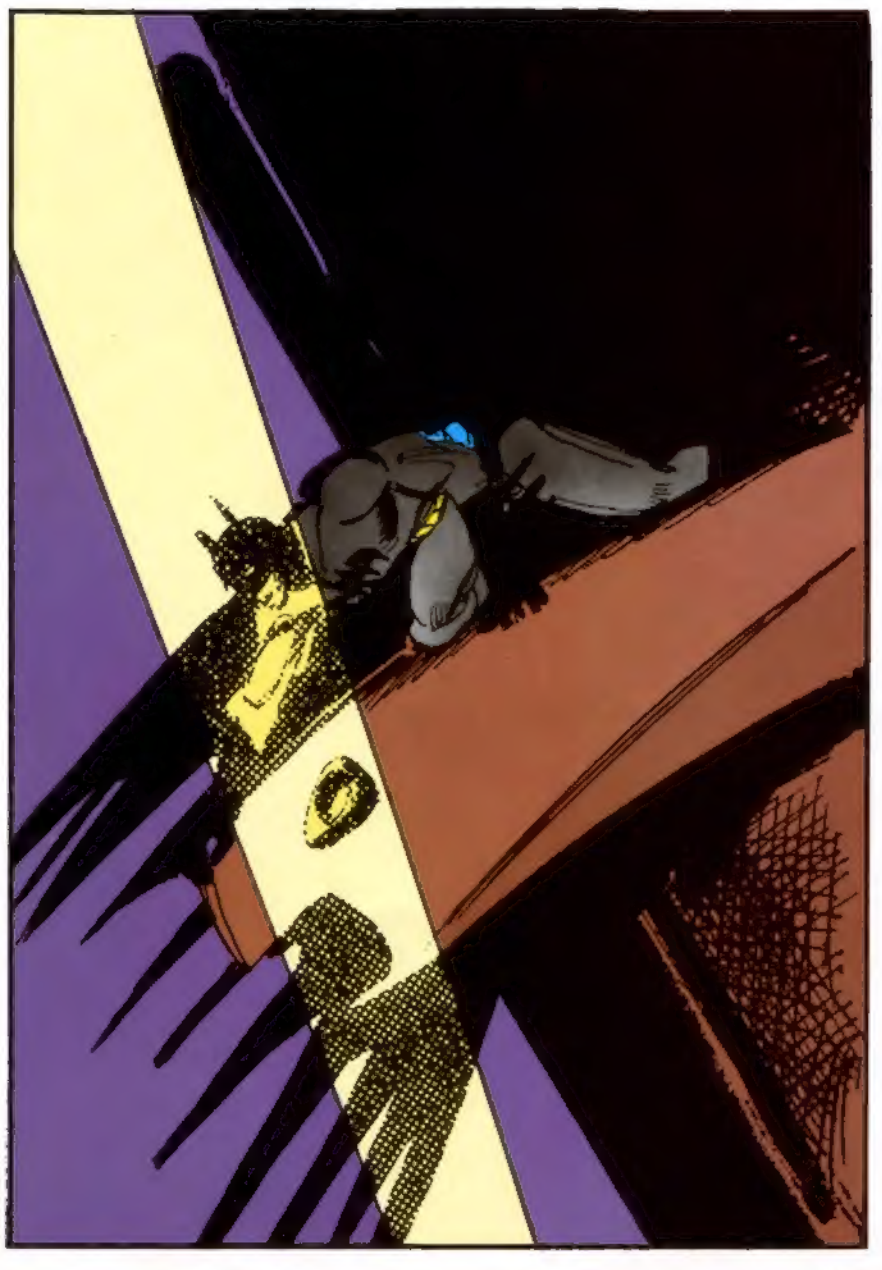
The tale begins *before* there was a Batman, when Gotham City was terrorized by a brutal serial killer whose series of murders caused the police to turn up the heat in an effort to stop his bloody reign of terror. The heat was turned up so high that the city's criminals themselves took action against the madman to cool things down. By the time they were done, it was believed the killer was dead.

But he wasn't.

And now Mr. Whisper is back to take his violent, merciless revenge on the underworld that betrayed him. Who is Mr. Whisper . . . and what does he have to do with the strange dreams that are haunting Bruce Wayne's sleep?

The answer can be found in "Gothic," written by Grant Morrison, with art and cover by Klaus Janson.

THE LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT . . . the story of how the legend was born.



BOOKS SHIPPING IN MARCH

☐ **ACTION COMICS #652**
Part 3 of the 3-part "Krypton-Man": Superman has totally embraced the ways of his Kryptonian heritage, prompting Ma and Pa Kent to make their first visit to Metropolis to teach their son a lesson. Written by Roger Stern, pencilled by George Pérez and Kerry Gammill, and inked by Brett Breeding. Cover by Pérez. $.75

ACTION COMICS #652

☐ **ADAM STRANGE #3**
(of a 3-book mini-series)
Revolution has swept Rann . . . and the beleaguered planet's only hope for a return to calm is the outlaw Adam Strange. All that's left for him now is restoring some order to his own chaotic life. Written by Richard Bruning, with art by Andy Kubert, and color by Adam Kubert. Painted cover by Andy Kubert. *(Prestige Format)* $3.95

☐ **ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS™ #17**
Part 1 of the 2-part "Ostus Legacy": Kyriani's past comes back to haunt her when she's confronted by a wizard who tells her she's the only one capable of stopping a menace he unleashed years before . . . with the help of her late father. Written by Dan Mishkin, with art and cover by Jan Duursema. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #466**
Clark and Lois's date is interrupted by the crashlanding of four astronauts mutated by cosmic radiation beyond all help . . . even Superman's. Written and pencilled by Dan Jurgens and inked by Art Thibert. Cover by Jurgens and Brett Breeding. $.75

☐ **ANIMAL MAN #23**
Trapped in the midst of insanity, Animal Man attempts to sort out his life. Written by Grant Morrison, with art by Chas Truog and Doug Hazlewood. Cover by Brian Bolland. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **THE ATLANTIS CHRONICLES #2**
(of a 7-issue maxi-series)
The great continent of Atlantis has sunk beneath the seas . . . and only the King of this mighty civilization stands between panic and chaos and the maintaining of order. Written by Peter David, with art and cover by Esteban Maroto. *(Deluxe Format)* $2.95

☐ **BATMAN #447**
Batman was certain he knew who the KGBDemon planned to assassinate. But he was wrong. Now the truce between Russia and the United States is threatened—as well as the survival of the planet. Written by Marv Wolfman, with art by Jim Aparo and Mike DeCarlo. $1.00

☐ **BATMAN Annual #14**
Following the events of BATMAN: YEAR ONE: Jim Gordon introduces Batman to Gotham City's new and courageous district attorney, Harvey Dent, who joins forces with the Caped Crusader to cut deep into Gotham's underworld . . . but something about the D.A.'s attitude toward crime bothers Batman. Written by Andrew Helfer and pencilled by Chris Sprouse. $2.00

☐ **BLACKHAWK #14**
The Blackhawks get back to basics as Janos and his team take to the skies once again, but are they test pilots for a craft that will revolutionize aviation . . . or unsuspecting guinea pigs? Written by Doug Moench, with art and cover by Rick Burchett. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

☐ **THE BUTCHER #1**
(of a 5-issue mini-series)
From the Canadian Rockies comes a menace so powerful that only the toughest of super-heroes can stop him.That description can only fit The Butcher—DC's newest crimefighter. Written and created by Mike Baron and artist Shea Anton Pensa. Cover by Paris Cullins and Pensa. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

☐ **CAPTAIN ATOM #40**
Babylon and Allard have been kidnapped by the Ghost as part of his plan to create the most destructive being the world has ever known. Written by Cary Bates and Greg Weisman, with art by Rafael Kayanan and Romeo Tanghal. Cover by Pat Broderick. $1.00

☐ **CHECKMATE! #28**
The menace and mystery of Cypher continues to grow as a newer generation of Bishop-robots is created . . . and Harry Stein is about to be fired as the head of Checkmate. Written by Paul Kupperberg, with art and cover by Tom Grindberg. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **DETECTIVE COMICS #613**
Someone is poisoning Gotham City . . . and Batman must find the fiend before the city's population is slaughtered. Also, Bruce Wayne has a date . . . with Vicki Vale. Written by Alan Grant, with art by Norm Breyfogle and Steve Mitchell. $1.00

DETECTIVE COMICS #613

☐ **DOC SAVAGE #20**
Doc may have escaped death on board the Hindenburg . . . but he still has to contend with the Airlord and his city in the sky: The Black Zeppelin. Written by Mike W. Barr, with art by Rod Whigham and Steve Montano. Cover by Adam Kubert. *(Deluxe Format)* $1.75

☐ **DR. FATE #16**
A trip down memory lane with Linda as she remembers Eric in a flashback to their days as the novice Doctor Fate. Written by J.M. DeMatteis, with art by guest-artists Jim Fern and Jeff Albrecht. Cover by Shawn McManus. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **THE DOOM PATROL #32**
The graves are giving up their dead. The books are giving up their words . . . and the Doom Patrol simply gives up in the face of the Decreator's awakening from its long sleep. Written by Grant Morrison, with art by Richard Case and John Nyberg. Painted cover by Simon Bisley. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **DRAGONLANCE™ #19**
Part 3 of the 4-part "A Winter's Knight": Can the aged and ailing Riva Sil-

BOOKS SHIPPING IN MARCH

vercrown escape the Draconians with the information that could end their deadly uprising? Written by Dan Mishkin, with art by Ron Randall and Randy Elliott. Cover by Randall. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **EL DIABLO #9**
Dos Rios's resident crime lord goes on a gun-toting rampage in defense of his daughter's honor. When El Diablo reluctantly intervenes, he discovers a far more explosive situation than anticipated. Written by Gerard Jones, with art and cover by Mike Parobeck and John Nyberg. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **FIRESTORM #97**
Can even Firestorm stop the rampage of the storm god Shango to save Obatala, the champion of mankind? Written by John Ostrander, with art and cover by Tom Mandrake. $1.00

FIRESTORM #97

☐ **FLASH #38**
When Flash uses the channeling cult's seance to contact the spirit of Barry Allen, he reaches another unexpected ghost from his past. Written by William Messner-Loebs, with art and cover by Greg LaRocque and Larry Mahlstedt. $1.00

☐ **FORGOTTEN REALMS™ #10**
"Cheeese," a single-issue story. Foxilon Cardluck faces a grave threat to his survival . . . the addictive substance called cheeese that bends the minds of Halflings. And somebody's slipped some of it into Foxy's food. . . . . Written by Jeff Grubb, with art and cover by Rags Morales and Dave Simons. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **GREEN ARROW #31**
Oliver Queen comes closer than he's ever been to death as he enters the forbidding realm of the drug underworld—and even Black Canary may not be able to save him. Written by Mike Grell, with art and cover by Grant Miehm and Frank McLaughlin. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.25

☐ **GREEN ARROW Annual #3**
Green Arrow would sure like to come down "From the Mountain," but he's in major trouble with the drug lords . . . the kind only The Question can save him from. The only problem is that The Question is retired—and babysitting. Written by Dennis O'Neil, with art by Tom Artis and Bill Wray. Cover by Dan Jurgens. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $2.50

☐ **GREEN LANTERN: EMERALD DAWN #6**
(of a 6-issue mini-series)
It's the all-out final battle between the indestructible Legion and the Green Lantern Corps . . . and the lives of the Guardians of the Universe hang in the balance. Written by Keith Giffen and Gerard Jones, with art by Mark Bright and Romeo Tanghal. Cover by Bright and Klaus Janson. $1.00

☐ **HAWK & DOVE #12**
Hawk & Dove and the New Titans continue their team-up as they fight the mastermind of Georgetown's recent mechanical madness: the evil alien robot Scarab. Written by Barbara and Karl Kesel, with art by Greg Guler and Scott Hanna. Cover by Guler and Karl Kesel. $1.00

☐ **HELLBLAZER #29**
The Family Man chooses someone close to John Constantine as his next victim. Written by Jamie Delano, with art by Ron Tiner and Kevin Walker. Painted cover by Kent Williams. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

☐ **THE HUNTRESS #14**
A new hero has appeared to stop the rise of violence in New York . . . if only he can stay out of the clutches of the mob boss he seeks to destroy. Written by Joey Cavalieri, with art and cover by Joe Staton and Bob Smith. *(Suggested for Mature Readers)* $1.00

☐ **JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA #38**
Two figures from the past return . . . one of them the rampaging menace of Despero . . . the other, a former Justice Leaguer. Written by Keith Giffen and J.M. DeMatteis, with art by Adam Hughes and Art Nichols. Cover by Hughes. $1.00

☐ **JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE #13**
Continued from JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA #37: Total insanity ensues as the Paris Embassy of the JLI is invaded by . . . the one-eyed cat from heck? Written by Keith Giffen and William Messner-Loebs, with art and cover by Bart Sears and Pablo Marcos. $1.00

☐ **L.E.G.I.O.N. '90 #15**
Lobo has a face-to-face confrontation with the space pirates who have been terrorizing the galaxy . . . and don't miss the debut of the new Lydea Mallor. Written by Alan Grant, with art by Barry Kitson and Mark McKenna. Cover by Kevin Maguire and Al Gordon. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT #6**
Part 1 of the 5-part "Gothic": Before there was The Batman there was a brutal serial killer who terrorized the city and then disappeared . . . but now Mr. Whisper is back to take revenge against an underworld that had betrayed him . . . and to haunt the dreams of Bruce Wayne. Written by Grant Morrison, with art and cover by Klaus Janson. *(Deluxe Format)* $1.50

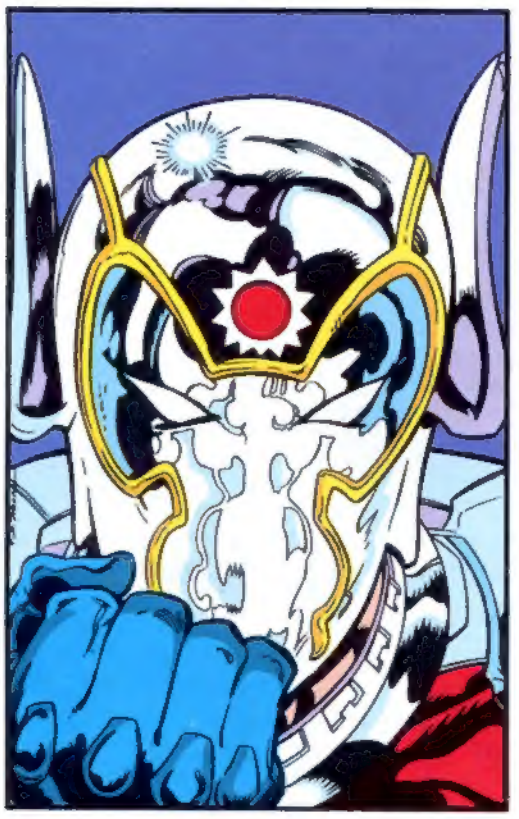
☐ **THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #7**
More new Legionnaires are introduced . . . and they may be needed to replace the regrouped Legion of Super-Heroes as they face their first and possibly last test at the hands of an old and very powerful foe, Mordru the Merciless. Written by Keith Giffen, Tom Bierbaum, Mary Bierbaum, and Al Gordon, with art and cover by Giffen and Gordon. *(Deluxe Format)* $1.75

THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #7

BOOKS SHIPPING IN MARCH

☐ **MISTER MIRACLE #15**
The second part of the Mogo—the planet-sized Green Lantern—as Mister Miracle tries to solve the mystery of Lobo's dolphins. Written by Doug Moench, with art and cover by Joe Phillips and Bruce Patterson. $1.00

☐ **NEW GODS #15**
When Orion comes face to face with a serial killer, even the son of Darkseid—himself no stranger to bloodshed—is unable to fathom the killer's motivation. Written by Mark Evanier, with art and cover by Paris Cullins and Will Blyberg. *(New Format)* $1.50



NEW GODS #15

☐ **THE NEW TITANS #66**
The Titans leap into action when it is discovered that Raven's in love . . . which has the group more than a little worried. Written by Marv Wolfman and with art by Tom Grummett and Al Vey. Cover by Grummett and George Pérez. *(Deluxe Format)* $1.75

☐ **THE SANDMAN #16**
The secret of the Doll's House and Gilbert's mysterious background are revealed as Rose finally meets the Sandman. Written by Neil Gaiman, with art by Mike Dringenberg and Malcolm Jones III. Painted cover by Dave McKean. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

☐ **THE SHADOW STRIKES! #8**
His name is Shiwan Khan and in San Francisco's Chinatown of 1935, he's hatching a plan to ignite global conflict . . . and his confrontation with The Shadow will be only the first that these two arch-foes will have in the years to come. Written by Gerard Jones, with art by Eduardo Barreto. Cover by Barreto. *(Deluxe Format)* $1.75

☐ **STAR TREK® #8**
Sweeney, the most dangerous mercenary in the universe, has set up an auction between the Klingons and the Nasgul . . . with the kidnapped Kirk, Spock, and Blaise as the prize. Written by Peter David, with art by James W. Fry and Arne Starr. Cover by Jerome Moore. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **STAR TREK:® THE NEXT GENERATION #8**
Data must make a choice between the crew of the USS Enterprise™ . . . and a new life as a space-faring pirate. Written by Michael Jan Friedman, with art by Gordon Purcell and Pablo Marcos. Cover by Jerome Moore. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **STARMAN #22**
There's no business like show business, as Starman discovers when he comes out of retirement to use his powers to create special effects for a Hollywood film. Written by Roger Stern, with art by Tom Lyle and Scott Hanna. Cover by Lyle. $1.00

STARMAN #22

☐ **SUICIDE SQUAD #40**
Part 1 of the 4-part "Phoenix Gambit": A year has gone by since the events in SUICIDE SQUAD #39 . . . a year in which the Squad has disbanded and Amanda Waller has been in prison. Now, in Moscow, a new group of Soviet metaheroes is founded . . . in Gotham City, a friend of Batman's is murdered . . . and with his help, the Squad is reborn. Written by John Ostrander, with art and cover by Isherwood. Includes a bound-in full-color poster of the new Squad and Batman by Geof Isherwood and Tom Ziuko. $1.00

☐ **SUPERBOY #4**
Professor Peterson's taken the concept of the "Big Man On Campus" far too literally when one of his scientific experiments goes awry thanks to a fraternity prank. Written by John Moore, with art by Jim Mooney and Ty Templeton. Cover by Kevin Maguire and Templeton. $1.00

☐ **SUPERMAN #43**
Clark Kent just might return to work at the Daily Planet . . . but only after he becomes a target of the deadly menace of The Kryptonite Man. Written and pencilled by Jerry Ordway, with inks by Dennis Janke. Cover by Ordway. $.75

☐ **SWAMP THING #95**
The swamp is being contaminated by toxic waste that is creating strange ramifications for Swamp Thing and his family. Written by Doug Wheeler, with art by Pat Broderick and Alfredo Alcala. Painted cover by John Totleben. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

☐ **TEMPUS FUGITIVE #2**
(of a 4-book mini-series)
Ray 27 is aided in his flight from his pursuers from the future by a Vietnamese family in the jungles . . . placing their lives in jeopardy by involving them in his illegal time-hopping. Fully painted art, story, and cover by Ken Steacy. *(Prestige Format)* $4.95

☐ **TIME MASTERS #4**
(of an 8-issue maxi-series)
The battle against the crosstime conspiracy heats up as Rip Hunter's cousin travels back to 1770 where he encounters Tomahawk . . . and death. Written by Bob Wayne and Lewis Shiner, with art by Art Thibert and Jose Marzan Jr. Cover by Thibert. *(New Format)* $1.75

☐ **WONDER WOMAN #42**
Wonder Woman examines her friendships as she checks in with those closest to her . . . including Vanessa, who's reached an important turning point in her life. Written by George Pérez and Mindy Newell, with art by Chris Marrinan and Romeo Tanghal. Cover by Marrinan and Pérez. $1.00

people at WORK

KLAUS JANSON

In 1986 Klaus Janson cemented his reputation in comics as inker over Frank Miller on the now legendary DARK KNIGHT miniseries. But long before that, he was dazzling fandom and fellow professionals alike with his brushwork.

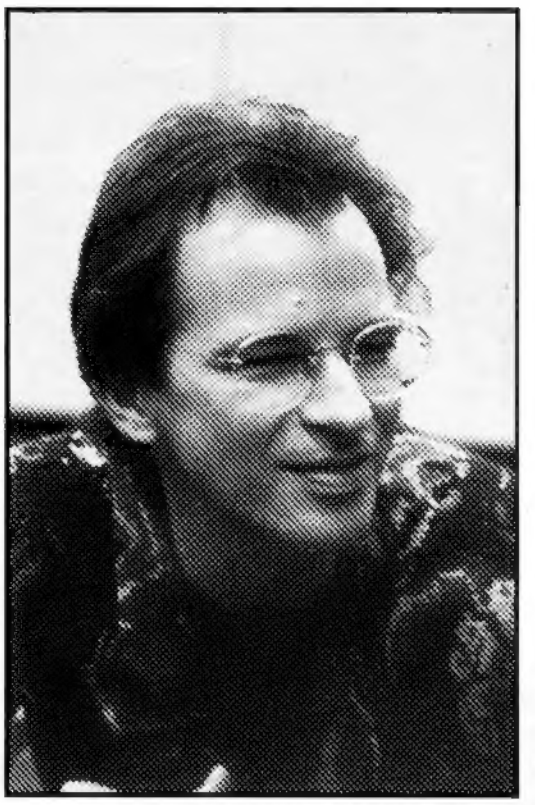
"I was born in a very, very small town in Germany called Coburg, in January of 1952," Klaus told us. "We came to the States in 1957 and settled in Connecticut, where we had some relatives. It was a strange time for me, since I was in kindergarten in Germany and a couple of months later I was thrust into a world where I didn't know how to speak or read the language. I was friendless. I mean, I knew nobody."

Comic books came into the picture early for Klaus, helping him to fill the gulf between kindergarten and first grade. "I learned how to read through comics by putting the words together with the pictures. I was reading all the Mort Weisinger stuff," he remembers. "Early LOIS LANE, SUPERMAN, JIMMY OLSEN, ACTION COMICS . . . mostly the SUPERMAN stuff. At a certain point I started cutting out the panels and the figures and pasting them up to tell my own stories until I realized that cutting up these books was really kind of stupid, so I started drawing my own stories.

"I think I've always had an inclination towards art, although I don't really have a strong memory of it. As far back as I can remember, art was the only thing I ever really wanted to do. And I never have done anything else. Well, when I was in high school I worked at McDonald's, and it was hard work . . . which insured the fact that art was the thing I wanted to do."

The aspiring artist followed a familiar route in his career when he began participating in early comics fandom. His work in fanzines led to his making an acquaintance that eventually landed him his first professional work. "All during high school, between '66 and '70, I was deeply involved in fandom. At one point I helped a friend put out a fanzine, the second issue of which featured an interview with DC editor Dick Giordano, who I met when I came into New York when I was a geeky sixteen-year-old.

"I had read somewhere that DC gave tours of their offices, so I showed up at the assigned time, but the secretary told me they weren't giving the tours anymore. I whined . . . I whined like the wind, 'I came all the way from Connecticut. I'm only a kid, let me in!'," Klaus recalls, laughing. "She took pity on me—it was very nice of her, actually—and called inside. And who came out but Jack Miller, a major editor. Jack took me around, and I met a whole bunch of luminaries, like Carmine Infantino and Neal Adams.



"Then he took me to see some of the editors and that's where I first met Dick Giordano, with whom I had, unbeknownst to me, a relationship. He knew me from all the letters I'd been sending him for years and years at Charlton Comics and then at DC. He recognized my name! He said, 'Oh, I know you.' I was flabbergasted. So we sat and chatted for a while and it turned out that he lived in Stratford, Connecticut, the next town over from where I lived.

"After that, I started showing him my work. I would stop by his house every few months, and he was very generous with his time, although at the beginning he tried to discourage me from being an artist, telling me 'Maybe you should be a writer. We really need some writers.' But I pretty much insisted that I was much more qualified in art.

"He must have believed me because I eventually started inking backgrounds for him and, through Dick's introduction, for Sal Trapani. I started making the rounds after I got out of high school, going up to Marvel and DC on a regular basis with my portfolio. It was a wonderful, wonderful time of my life. I'd leave Connecticut early in the morning and spend the entire day in New York shuttling between DC and Marvel, hanging out in Bryant Park and looking at Xeroxes of Gil Kane's or whoever's art. . . . It was just wonderful."

Klaus may have been having fun, but it wasn't all fun and games. "I was soundly rejected for about two years. I made the rounds for two summers, and finally Marvel offered me about the lowest job on the totem pole, applying zip-a-tone to 1950s monster stories for their reprint books. It paid like $2.50 a page. But I was ecstatic. This was the life! This was living! I was working for Marvel."

But just being around the Marvel offices had advantages. Klaus says, "Rich Buckler saw my portfolio and said he needed an inker on *Black Panther* and asked me if I'd be willing to do it. That was really the beginning of my professional career, aside from the background inking I'd been doing for Dick, Sal, and Frank Brunner, and some other odds and ends. I was making $200 a month, and on that I moved to New York—a naive and idealistic time, but there's no other place that I ever wanted to live."

Following the *Black Panther*, Klaus inked *Spider-Man*, *The Defenders*, *Thor*, and *Logan's Run*, to name a few. "I was a real fill-in inker because I worked pretty fast. I did a lot of annuals.

"I think I really started coming into my own as an inker on *Daredevil* over the pencils of Bob Brown, Gil Kane, and Carmine Infantino. That was a really good time for me, since I started coloring the work, too.

"Then, of course, Frank Miller came on the book and I continued inking it. As it turned out, Frank was starting to develop more of an interest in the writing and was doing less and less artwork as time went on, so I wound up doing more and more of it by default. I started developing an interest in pencilling. Then, after Frank left, I carried the book for a couple of months, but I was so burnt out I just had to get away from it.

"I think it was around that time that I started floating between companies. At DC I did a couple of BATMAN stories, a two-part GREEN ARROW back-up, an Adam Strange/Superman team-up with Cary Bates, and the FROST AND FIRE adaptation for the DC graphic novel science fiction line. And then I was asked to ink DARK KNIGHT. I always liked working on Frank's pencils. When I ink his stuff, as I've said before, the result's a unique product. It doesn't come off looking like anything else. So I said, sure, absolutely, I'd love to do it. Of course, nobody at the time expected it to be the success it was."

And it *was* successful, with many critics of the comics medium crediting it as one of the seminal comics of the decade. Still, Klaus dived right back into the thick of things by pencilling and inking the first five issues of Marvel's *The Punisher*, followed by the art for *St. George* for Epic. And then it was back to DC for the five-part "Gothic" storyline beginning this month in LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT #6.

"There were really three characters that I've been interested in and have stayed with me since childhood: Superman, Batman, and Daredevil. Batman is such a Freudian psychological archetype . . . well, both Superman and Batman are such strong archetypes, that I'm attracted to them, if for no other reason than that.

"There are also the visual aspects of the characters . . . the things that are attached to Batman and Superman, the visual paraphernalia; their environments are just so interesting, even though they're very much opposites in their extremes, with Metropolis being so light and Gotham so dark. I really enjoy Batman . . . I don't think I've ever met any artist who doesn't. I feel very fortunate to have this opportunity to work on him again."

And what does Klaus have in mind for his fans following LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT? "Oh, I have a few projects I'd like to try, a character of my own creation I want to develop. We'll see. I just know that after this run on Batman, I'll do something else and then maybe I can return to Batman again in some fashion. Batman's a really neat character."

Detective COMICS®

From the archives of the DC Comics Library, we bring you the cover of DETECTIVE #71 (1943), the original of which is on display at the Museum of Cartoon Art in Rye Brook, NY, until February 25, 1990.